CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A trigger assembly comprising:

a housing having a first surface and a second surface adjacent the first surface, the first surface at least partially defining an opening and the second surface at least partially defining a path; and

a trigger movably supported by the housing and at least partially engaging the path when moving with respect to the housing, the trigger including

a support portion at least partially extending through the opening into the housing, the support portion having a first width, and

a contact portion connected to the support portion and disposed outside the housing, the contact portion having a second width greater than the first width.

2. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the opening has an opening width, and wherein the second width is greater than the opening width.

3. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the contact portion has a length, and wherein the second width is substantially constant along the length.

4. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the trigger is pivotally supported by the housing.

5. The trigger assembly of claim 4, wherein the trigger pivots about a pivot axis, the pivot axis being substantially parallel to the second width.

6. The trigger assembly of claim 5, wherein the pivot axis extends through the housing.

7. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein an operator's finger contacts the contact portion and extends in the substantially same direction as the second width.

8. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the contact portion includes a convex curved surface opposite the support portion and curved along the second width.

9. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein a space is defined between the trigger and a portion of the housing surrounding the opening, and wherein the trigger further includes an upper protrusion projecting outwardly from the contact portion into the space between the trigger and the housing.

10. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the trigger is moveable between a rest position and a depressed position.

11. The trigger assembly of claim 10, wherein the trigger is biased toward the rest position.

12. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the path includes a second opening, the trigger at least partially extending through the second opening.

13. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the path includes a recess.

14. A power tool comprising:

a housing;

a handle connected to the housing and having a first surface and a second surface adjacent the first surface, the first surface at least partially defining an opening and the second surface at least partially defining a path; and

a trigger movably supported by the housing and at least partially engaging the path when moving with respect to the handle, the trigger including

a support portion at least partially extending through the opening into the housing, the support portion having a first width, and

a contact portion connected to the support portion and disposed outside the housing, the contact portion having a second width greater than the first width.

15. The power tool of claim 14, wherein the opening has an opening width, and wherein the second width is greater than the opening width.

16. The power tool of claim 14, wherein the contact portion has a length, and wherein the second width is substantially constant along the length.

17. The power tool of claim 14, wherein the trigger is pivotally supported by the handle.

18. The power tool of claim 17, wherein the trigger pivots about a pivot axis, the pivot axis being substantially parallel to the second width.

19. The power tool of claim 18, wherein the pivot axis extends through the housing.

20. The power tool of claim 14, wherein an operator's finger contacts the contact portion and extends in the substantially same direction as the second width.

21. The power tool of claim 14, wherein the contact portion has a convex curved surface opposite the support portion and curved along the second width.

22. The power tool of claim 14, wherein a space is defined between the trigger and the portion of the handle surrounding the opening, and wherein the trigger further includes an upper protrusion projecting outwardly from the contact portion into the space between the trigger and the handle.

23. The power tool of claim 14, wherein the trigger is moveable between a rest position and a depressed position.

24. The power tool of claim 23, wherein the trigger is biased toward the rest position.

25. The power tool of claim 14, further comprising a motor disposed within the housing and connectable to a power source, and a switch operated by the trigger and operable to selectively connect the motor to the power source.

26. The trigger assembly of claim 14, wherein the path includes a second opening, the trigger at least partially extending through the second opening.

27. The trigger assembly of claim 1, wherein the path includes a recess.

28. A trigger assembly comprising:

a housing defining an opening; and

a trigger movably supported by the housing, a space being defined between the trigger and the portion of the housing surrounding the opening, and the trigger including

a support portion at least partially extending through the opening into the housing,

a contact portion connected to the support portion and disposed outside the housing, and

an upper protrusion projecting outwardly from the contact portion into the space between the trigger and the housing.

29. The trigger assembly of claim 28, wherein the support portion has a first width, and wherein the contact portion has a second width greater than the first width.

30. The trigger assembly of claim 29, wherein the opening has an opening width, and wherein the second width is greater than the opening width.

31. The trigger assembly of claim 29, wherein the contact portion has a length, and wherein the second width is substantially constant along the length.

32. The trigger assembly of claim 29, wherein the contact portion has a convex curved surface opposite the support portion and curved along the second width.

33. The trigger assembly of claim 28, wherein the trigger is pivotally supported by the housing.

34. The trigger assembly of claim 28, wherein the trigger is moveable between a rest position and a depressed position.

35. The trigger assembly of claim 34, wherein the trigger is biased toward the rest position.

36. A power tool comprising:

a housing;

a handle connected to the housing and defining an opening; and

a trigger movably supported by the handle, a space being defined between the trigger and the portion of the handle surrounding the opening, the trigger including

a support portion at least partially extending through the opening into the housing,

a contact portion connected to with the support portion and disposed outside the housing,

an upper protrusion projecting outwardly from contact portion into the space between the trigger and the handle.

37. The power tool of claim 36, wherein the support portion has a first width, and wherein the contact portion has a second width greater than the first width.

38. The power tool of claim 37, wherein the opening has an opening width, and wherein the second width is greater than the opening width.

39. The power tool of claim 37, wherein the contact portion has a convex curved surface opposite the support portion and curved along the second width.

40. The power tool of claim 36, wherein the contact portion has a length, and wherein the second width is substantially similar along the length.

41. The power tool of claim 36, wherein the trigger is pivotally supported by the handle.

42. The power tool of claim 36, wherein the trigger is moveable between a rest position and a depressed position.

43. The power tool of claim 42, wherein the trigger is biased toward the rest position.

44. The power tool of claim 36, further comprising a motor disposed within the housing and connectable to a power source, and a switch operated by the trigger and operable to selectively connect the motor to the power source.

45. A trigger assembly comprising:

a housing defining an opening; and

a trigger movably supported by the housing, a space being defined between the trigger and the portion of the housing surrounding the opening, and the trigger including:

a support portion at least partially extending through the opening into the housing;

a contact portion connected to the support portion and disposed outside the housing;

an upper protrusion projecting outwardly from the contact portion into the space between the trigger and the housing; and

multiple ribs extending between the support portion and the contact portion on opposite sides of the trigger, the ribs defining grooves between the ribs.